

Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, January 29, 2008

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PM40007168 R10645

Forts get set
For summer events

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At home and away

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Vicki Brooker photo

Opening rock for 25th annual Oilmen's

Town councillor Dick Millar was flanked by Elk Point Oilmen's Association president Werner Schmitt (left) and 25th Annual Oilmen's Bonspiel committee chair Tim Smereka as he delivered the official first rock on Wednesday evening at the Elk Point Curling Club. See Winners, Page 6.

Oilmen's Association pioneer named '08 Oilman of the Year

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

A newcomer to the Elk Point oil patch who attended the first organizational meeting of the Elk Point Oilmen's Association was named 2008 Oilman of the Year on Saturday night at that association's 25th annual Oilmen's Bonspiel.

Allan Frankiw had just arrived in Elk Point in January 1984 to work as a production engineer with Westmin Resources when he

attended that meeting, along with Bob Paynter, Gordon McCuaig, Dave Kenyon, Bernie Goruk and a few others.

"We kicked around the idea and decided we would form the EPOA, and with the help of Dale Wilson, a lawyer in town, we made an application for a society. The rest is history," Frankiw said.

"We quickly put together a curling committee to organize a bonspiel for March of 1984. Thirty-two teams registered and it

was a huge success."

Frankiw said the original intent of the association "was to have an organization in the community for the oil folks of the area, for social function such as the annual curling bonspiels, golf tournaments and other events, and to provide fellowship and socializing for the oil patch staff in the area."

(Continued on Page 2)

2008 Oilman of the Year
Allan Frankiw (left accepts his trophy from Ken Ference.)

Gadowski wins fourth out of five Oilmen's spiels

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

"This is unreal! I can't believe it," Shamrock Valley Enterprises skip Leonard Gadowski said as he and his team came off the ice after their six-end championship victory over Mike Makowecki's Tuboscope foursome in the 25th Annual Elk Point Oilmen's Bonspiel.

This was Gadowski's fourth win in the past five Elk Point Oilmen's spiels, and his third for Shamrock Valley. In 2004, he skipped the Tuboscope rink, which included one of member of this weekend's opposition. Tuboscope's 2008 third, Joe Halbach, played lead for Gadowski that year.

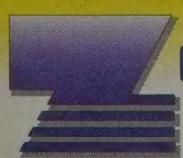
Gadowski shared the credit for this year's win with third Norm Hempel, second Owen Gibson and lead Curtis Porcina, and says it was "a team effort" throughout the weekend as they four met a series of top-notch teams on their way to the win.

The "B" event was the battle of the Troys, with Troy Lorenson and his TTL Consulting crew taking the win away from the shorthanded CCS #1 rink skipped by Troy Bohn.

Superior Safety, skipped by 1987 and 2002 Oilmen's champion Clarence Romanick, won the "C" event in a down-to-the-last-rock tender against Mike Breen's Nalco foursome, while CCS Landfill, skipped by Clark Sittler, won another 10-end decision over Steve Penz and the E-Can crew.

A total of 32 rinks took part in this year Oilmen's, starting with preliminary draws on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and with full days of curling on Friday and Saturday. The top 16 rinks competed in the semi-finals Sunday morning, with the victors going on to Sunday afternoon's finals.

Each curler had the opportunity at the conclusion of their first game to take part in a draw-to-the-button competition, Randy Rusnak and Curtis Porcina both centred in on the target, with Rusnak winning the coin toss and a nailer - air compressor set. Dave Tkachuk placed third.



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Winners hit the spot

Bob Clarke (above left) presented a nailer and air compressor set to draw-to-the-button coin-toss winner Randy Rusnak. Rusnak tied with Curtis Porcina (photo at right) who received a broom autographed by the Ferby rink from Leonard Gadowski.



Al MacDonald presented the Highway Event prizes of portable craft centres to Matt Russett, skip of the Weatherford CPS rink, who won the coin toss in the Highway event.

Oilman of '08

(Continued from Front Page)

Oil Patch Crime Watch was an offshoot of the EPOA, under the leadership and direction of Gordon McCuaig, Frankiw said.

"Gord had the vision that we all needed to work together, keeping our eyes open for any possible oil patch crime. This concept worked in other areas of the province and was fully supported by our local RCMP. It became another key objective of the organization."

Frankiw was involved with the organizing committees for the first few oilmen's bonspiels and golf tournaments, as well as an Oktoberfest the group hosted early in its history. As a non-profit organization, they also wanted to raise funds to help the community, and proceeds from their events assisted the Elk Point Curling Club, the Elk Point Golf Club and other local projects.

Frankiw worked with Westmin until 1989, becoming production manager in 1988, and then with Norcen Energy Resources 1989 to 1994 as superintendent of an area which expanded to include Two Hills and Camrose. During this time he also served two terms on town council, from 1986 to 1992, and was acting mayor for six months of that time. He was also active with the chamber of commerce and served on the executive.

Frankiw continued his involvement with the EPOA until he left Elk Point in 1994. He says his involvement from the inception until that time, "provided me with a lot of satisfaction and good memories," including one notable Lions

Club goat ticket draw, where a trucking company owner was encouraged to buy tickets for himself. "We told him they were for a boat, not a goat."

Frankiw was transferred to Norcen's Calgary office in 1994, and became operations manager, with all superintendents and field operations reporting to him. When Union Pacific purchased Norcen in 1998, he moved to a new role as mid-stream manager responsible for the joint venture team, facilities and pipeline team and integrity and corrosion team. He continued that role when Anadarko Canada purchased UPR in 2000.

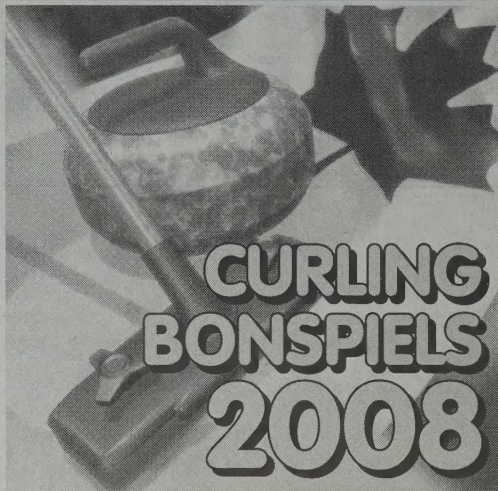
When CNRL purchased Anadarko in late 2006, Frankiw became production manager for the Edson area, and in early 2007 was promoted to vice-president of production for the central area. He is currently CNRL's vice-president of production responsible for Slave Lake, St. Albert, Bonnyville north gas area, Medicine Hat, southeast Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Looking back to the EPOA's beginning, Frankiw says that "25 years later, it is great to see the association has continued to be very successful, with all of the different folks who volunteered to be part of it. In the past, there were struggles at times, getting people to serve on the executive, but there was always someone who would step up. New people bring new ideas, the ones who are still around have been the backbone, and that's how organizations continue to flourish. Being part of this community for 11 years, I know communities like Elk Point have a strong fabric of volunteers who have made this locality what it is today."

Frankiw says that over the 25 years of the EPOA's existence, "we have seen many ups and downs with the oil patch — oil prices below \$10 a barrel to \$100 a barrel. It's a tribute to this organization to weather the storm in many of the cyclical hard times the patch has gone through. Even when there were layoffs and the activity and spending level was low and things did not look good for the patch, the oilmen's functions were always a success and provided us with a venue to unwind. We celebrated the good times, and drowned our sorrows in the bad times."

Frankiw's wife, Diane, is the daughter of Verna and Kaz Lazicki, and grew up in Elk Point. The Frankiws continue to follow the community's happenings in the Elk Point Review. Their sons, who started school here, have now moved on to careers, Kevin as a geophysicist at Pengrowth and planning to get married this year, and Trevor articling to become a chartered accountant

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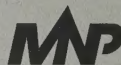
MIXED BONSPIEL
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Henri Amyotte
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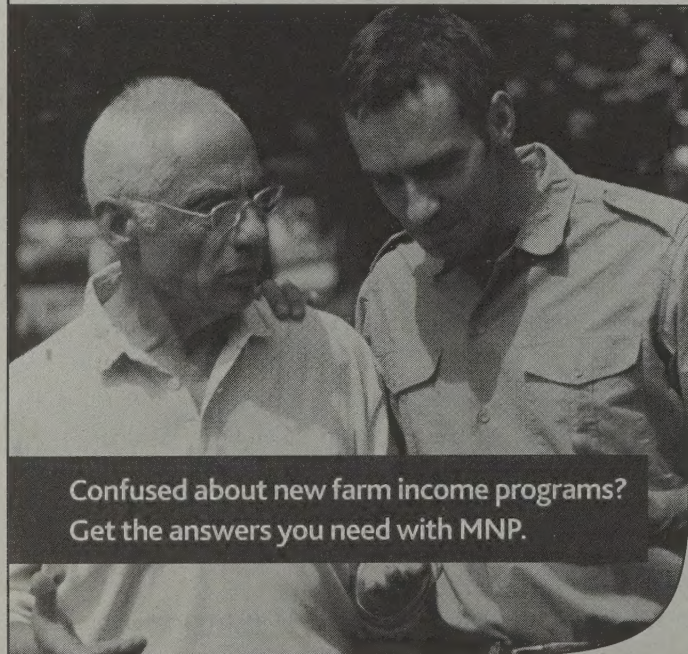
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Forts' friends gear up for a busy year

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

With another successful Fur Trade Rendezvous behind them, the Friends of Fort George and Buckingham House met last week to discuss that event and set plans in motion for the coming year.

The Rendezvous, held Oct. 20 and saluting the bicentennial celebrations of explorer and fur trader David Thompson, included top-notch fiddle entertainment by St. Paul's Daniel Gervais, a fascinating history of Thompson by Lac La Biche historian Tom Maccagno and a great lineup of items for the silent auction. Special guests included Deputy Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture Fay Orr and an advance party from the David Thompson Bicentennial Brigade, who carried their 24-foot voyageur canoe into the Elks Hall to become part of the décor.

A review of the event showed that although the Friends raised more than \$3875 toward future projects with the Rendezvous, the silent auction fell short of their expectations, with a number of the 48 items going for less than their value.

The event ran in competition with two other major activities, and the Friends feel that this may have cut into Rendezvous attendance. A year-round community calendar where all organizations could list their activities to prevent scheduling conflicts has been suggested.

Other suggestions for future Rendezvous included having entertainment during the cocktail hour, rather than later in the evening, scheduling breaks in the program to give the crowd more opportunity to bid on the silent auction, and possibly having a live auction for a few high-end items.

The summary of upcoming and planned projects at the Forts was a worthwhile part of the program and showed

those attending why the Friends need their support.

The next Fur Trade Rendezvous has been tentatively planned for Feb. 2010.

Bernice Capjack, chair of celebrations surrounding the upcoming visit of the David Thompson Centennial Brigade, visited the Friends meeting to outline the activities planned for the May long weekend. The Brigade is scheduled to arrive at Elk Point Bridge on Saturday around 5 p.m., and will be welcomed with a brief program at that time. The Brigade will have ample time to settle in to their campsite and travel to the A. G. Ross Arena for a banquet and entertainment that evening.

A pancake breakfast for the voyageurs and their ground party is scheduled for Sunday morning, with bus transportation available to take the visitors to Fort George and Buckingham House later that day for tours of the site and the Forts' first major activity of the year, the Fur Factor Challenge.

The Friends plan to have the interpretive centre gift shop up and running by that date, and are also planning to fire up the barbecue to cook burgers for the visitors to the site that day.

The Brigade will resume their voyage early on the morning of Monday, May 19.

Two weeks later, the Forts will be the location for the start and finish of the first ever Riverland Adventure Challenge. Riverland Recreational Trail Society chair Sheila Thompson outlined the Saturday, May 31 program for the new event, which will see a possible 50 teams of participants canoe from the landing below the Forts to Riverview, run or walk up the e Iron Horse Trail to the Lindbergh staging area, and ride bicycles on the trail and connecting roads back to the Forts. Thompson says she hopes the challenge will become "a memorable annual

event, focusing on the forts, the North Saskatchewan River and the Iron Horse Trail, and highlighting the history and natural beauty of the area."

Black powder riflemen will signal the start of the challenge, bagpipers will pipe the canoeists ashore downstream, and a catered meal will welcome the cyclists back to the forts. Thompson said about 30 volunteers will be needed to work at checkpoints along the route and to help carry out the event.

Two other events, the Saskatoon Festival on July 19 and the Forts des Prairies Jamboree on Aug. 31, were touched on briefly and will be discussed further at upcoming meetings.

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Suspects charged in Frog Lake home invasion

Elk Point RCMP have arrested and charged four residents of the Frog Lake First Nation in connection with a home invasion that occurred on Jan. 22.

Eighteen-year-old Sarine Aulotte-Smith, 25-year-old Frederick Smith, 26-year-old Dwayne Lagimodiere, and 24-year-old Cheryl Lagimodiere all face

charges of attempted break and enter, mischief over \$5,000, uttering threats, carrying a weapon while committing an offence, and prowling at night on private property. Aulotte-Smith also faces one further count of failing to comply with the conditions based on a recognizance from a previous offence.

Around 10:40 p.m. on Jan. 22, police received a call that several people were attempting to break into a home, using baseball bats and golf clubs. By the time RCMP members arrived, the suspects had already fled the scene.

Police observed that several windows had been broken out of the residence and

also out of a vehicle parked in the yard. There was also extensive damaged to the door of the residence. No one was hurt during the attempted break-in.

Aulotte-Smith was apprehended by RCMP a short time after the complaint was issued, with the remaining three suspects taken into custody the following day.

Smith was held in custody and made an appearance in provincial court on Jan. 24.

Dwayne Lagimodiere has been remanded in custody and will appear in provincial court on Jan. 31 at 9:30 a.m. Aulotte-Smith and Cheryl Lagimodiere were both ordered released

on cash bail, but will also appear in court on Jan. 31.

They just kept coming

The Elk Point Oilmen's Association's list of bonspiel sponsors in last week's issue was missing the names of the following donors whose assistance arrived after press time:

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1 Session: January 31
Fee: \$15.00 (supplies included)

Conversational Spanish

Instructor: Asterio Cueva Herrera
15 Sessions: Beginning February 4
Fee: \$60.00

Yoga

Instructor: Irene Zarowny
8 Sessions: Beginning February 4
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EDITORIAL

Enough of this, already!

Snow, blowing snow, wind chill - that's winter in Alberta, and we ought to be used to it. However, when it gets like it was this past weekend, we tend to run around like Chicken Little, proclaiming the sky is falling.

It didn't fall as much on us as it did on some other communities, who got much larger dumps of snow, but it was enough to make travelling hazardous and to make getting around in town difficult.

The snow isn't the worst part - we had far more last winter by this time, and it definitely was piled in bigger heaps and had already marooned many of us for several days.

This time, we have extreme cold to deal with. The old-timers knew all about -40 degree temperatures with a vicious windchill on top of that, but fortunately, for number of years we have seen very little of that kind of cold. It's hard to deal with when you're not used to it.

When the weather is like that, it's a good thing that school buses aren't running, even if some teens may miss their final exams because of it. It's a huge responsibility to take 40 or 50 children out on drifted roads when temperatures are down at the bottom of the thermometer, and as we all know, what the weather is right now may not be what it is a few hours from now.

The good thing is that we only - if you can believe the groundhog at his grumpiest - have six weeks and four days until spring. If he doesn't see his shadow, it could be less, but we won't count on that. Hopefully, this is the only serious cold snap we'll experience this winter, and that it's all down-hill sledding from here until the big thaw arrives.

In the meantime, remember to take your survival gear along, and be careful out there.

WAY BACK WHEN...

Compensation and crime stats

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 29 IN...

1988

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce was told by Dr. Frank Estey that larger towns with more amenities and more doctors on staff attract potential doctors away from towns like Elk Point "because they prefer to go where they aren't on call every third night." Marwayne BPO Elks Seniors, skipped by Harold Tupper, won the Corby Cup zone play-down.

1993

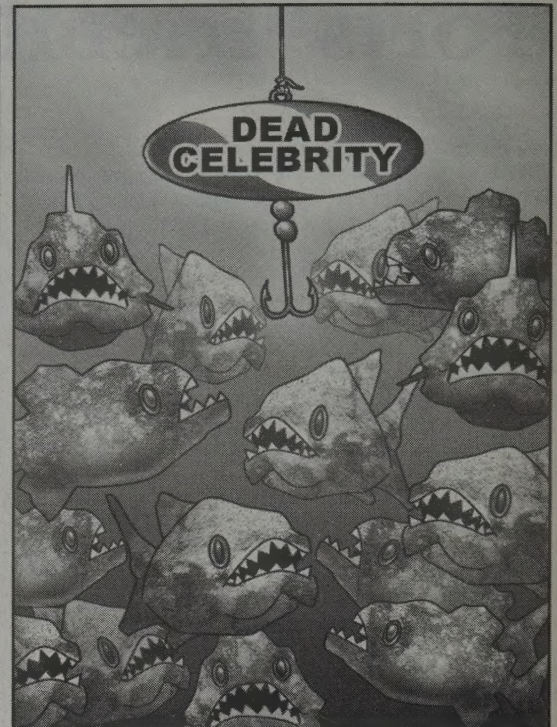
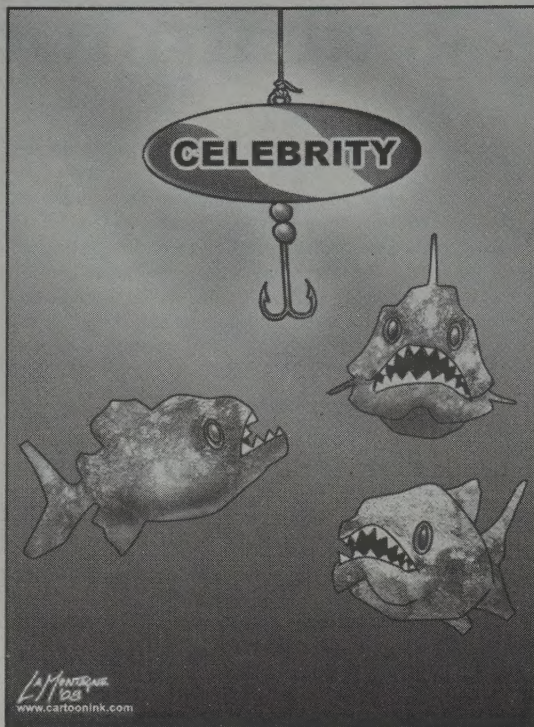
Elk Point Surface Rights Association and Amoco Canada finally came to an agreement regarding compensation for leases, with a \$500 increase per well if landowners adopted a variable lease compensation option. Residential power rates were on their way up, with a 4.8 per cent increase announced for February.

1998

An explosion and fire at Canadian Salt's Lindbergh facility destroyed three-quarters of the maintenance building and injured three workers. A survey conducted by Elk Point RCMP showed that residents felt the force should concentrate on preventing "persons crimes" such as sexual and physical assault, robbery and murder.

2003

Provincial Health and Wellness Minister Gary Mar began appointing boards for Alberta's nine new health regions as elected boards became a thing of the past. Elk Point Oilmen's Association was putting the finishing touches on their 20th annual Oilmen's Bonspiel.



GUEST COLUMN

This Saturday is the day

Yes, this Saturday is Feb. 2 and it will bring the most watched weather forecast of the year - and the only one led by a rodent. Legend has it that on this morning, if a groundhog can see its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If it cannot see its shadow, spring is on the way.

Why the groundhog? Since a groundhog (or woodchuck or "whistle pig") hibernates for the winter, its coming out of the ground is a natural sign of spring. In Europe centuries ago, people watched for other hibernating animals, including badgers, bears and hedgehogs, as signs of winter's end. Germans who immigrated to Pennsylvania in the mid-1800s began keeping an eye on the groundhog. The widespread population of the rodent made it a handy agent for this particular weather superstition. And a superstition it is. But there's a grain of truth: the winter days when you can see your shadow clearly are often especially cold, because there are no clouds overhead to insulate the earth.

So why now and why is Feb. 2 the day? Early February is midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Throughout history, numerous holidays have marked this seasonal crossroads. Among these is Candlemas Day, Feb. 2, a Christian holiday that celebrates Mary's ritual purification. Candles for sacred use were blessed on this day. Gradually the traditions at this Candlemas came to associate with different folklore. The German added the belief of an animal, initially a hedgehog, being frightened by his shadow on Candlemas, would foretell that winter would last another six weeks. This belief was brought to America during the 18th century by the German settlers. These settlers adopted the groundhog as their weather predictor.

Pennsylvania's official celebration of Groundhog Day began Feb. 2, 1886 with a proclamation in The Punxsutawney Spirit by the newspaper editor, Clymer

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.



deanna
EASTHOPE

from the FCSS desk

Freas. The groundhog was given the name, "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinary," and his hometown thus was called the "Weather Capital of the World." Today we know the groundhogs to be Punxsutawney Phil and his friends. It all started when some friends in Punxsutawney, PA went out into the woods on Candlemas Day to look for groundhogs. The outing became a tradition, and a local newspaper editor nicknamed the seekers "the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club."

Canada's Groundhog Day relies on the predictions of an albino groundhog named Wiarton Willie. Although Punxsutawney Phil gets the most attention, various other places in the United States and Canada have their own special groundhog. Can you name Alberta's groundhog?

On the fun side, here is a poem from Germany:

For as the sun shines on Candlemas Day,
So far will the snow swirl until May.
For as the snow blows on Candlemas Day,
So far will the sun shine before May.

Here is another poem and this one is from America:

If the sun shines of Groundhog Day,
Half the fuel and half the hay.

Regardless, whatever happens this Saturday, may it be the right prediction, because I think we are all tired of winter!



ELK POINT REVIEW

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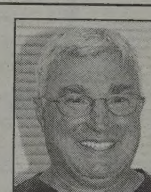
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Canada

Busy weekend for local minor hockey teams

Saturday was busy day at the A. G. Ross Arena, the first game in the morning seeing the **Novice Hurricanes**, who were a little short of horse power this past weekend, meeting up with Dewberry Colts. Brodie Grykuliak scoring one on a penalty shot, Chad Poitras chipping one in, the assist from the big power forward Amy Harms. Not only did Chad score, but he also did an outstanding job playing his position in the defensive zone guarding the point man. Brody Odgaard was fighting the flu, but still managed to do some coast to coast rushes, goaltender Ryan McGee had

his hands full with those pesky ponies but did play a great game as well, facing some 40-odd shots.



**doug
BASSETT**

Review Sports

The second game on Saturday saw the **Atom Avalanche** face off with the big team from Kikino who loves to use the big slap shot from the point, Colin "Naz Jr." Nazarchuk getting the only goal for the Avalanche in this contest.

They played well and showed lots of hustle, but just couldn't catch any breaks or get any bounces. They didn't score but still, it was a gallant effort by the **Bantam Storm** Friday night when the girls traveled to Hardisty.

On Saturday afternoon at home it more of the same against Lloydminster, no score after the first period, 2-0 after the second and a few more in the third, but you have to give these girls a lot of credit they never, ever give up. "She's a brick house, she's mighty, mighty just keeping the puck out" Another awesome weekend for the first time tender Robyn "Brick Maennchen"

For many years we have battled these guys, and trust me, nothing is sweeter than this, the icing on the cake Saturday night, when the **Peewee Avalanche** topped off the night with a huge 5 to 3 win over the league-leading team from Kitscoty. "Dan the Man" Garrett with two goals and an assist, Andrew "Bruise Brother" Jenner with a goal and an assist, Trever "the Kid" Ballas with a goal and an assist, and Logan

"Paycheck" Becker also on the score sheet with a goal and an assist. Rylan Buffalo, Michael "Bulldozer" Abraham and Brett "the Moose" Ockerman also getting helpers.

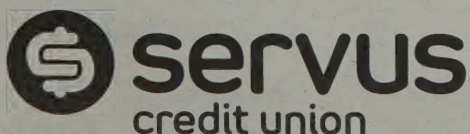
On Sunday the boys traveled to Mannville coming home with a four-all tie. Trever "the Kid" Ballas with a hat trick, "Dan the Man" Garrett with a single, Logan "Paycheck" Becker assisting, and the "Bruise Brothers" Matthew and Andrew Jenner also chipping in to help, both of them getting in on the action assisting on goals. The "Moose" was loose patrolling the blue line, except for two trips into the sin bin. And two very strong games this weekend for old stingy "Mr. Scrooge," goaltender Brayden Vinge.

(Continued on Page 11)

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2008 Oilmen's Grand Challenge winner

Murry Nielsen presents the Shamrock Valley Enterprises trophy to 2008 Elk Point Oilmen's Grand Challenge winners (right to left) Leonard Gadowski, Norm Hempel, Owen Gibson and Curtis Porcina, who were also sponsored by Shamrock Valley Enterprises. The Shamrock team won the final over Tuboscope teammates (front row, right to left) Mike Makowecki, Joe Halbach, Jeremy Wetsch and Russ Horbach.



"C" Event winners

Warner Schmitt presented the BMW trophy to the "C" Event winners from Superior Safety (back row, left to right): Clarence Romanick, Brian Wittmack, Gerry Croteau and Andy Ducharme, after their fight to the finish with (front, left to right) Nalco curlers Mike Breen, Ivan Bardoel, Jerry Honish and Al Pankiw.



"B" Event winners

Elk Point Oilmen's Association president Werner Schmitt presents the Tarsands trophy to "B" Event winners, the TTL Consulting rink, (left to right) Troy Lorenson, Sheldon Ballas, Greg Desaulniers and Jason Jenner, who defeated the short-handed CCS #1 team (front, left to right) Troy Bohn, Derek Yockey and Lane Lorenson (not shown, Dale Fittes.).



"D" Event winners

Werner Schmitt presents the B & R Eckel's trophy to (right to left) Clark Sittler, Al MacDonald, Sheldon Olsen and Darren Skolarchuk of CCS, who took 10 full ends to defeat E-Can curlers (front, right to left) Steve Penz, Tim Smereka, Scott Penz and Paige White.

Photos by Vicki Brooker

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Long-ago quilters leave treasured legacy

BY VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

For close to 70 years, a forgotten treasure has slumbered undisturbed at the bottom of a trunk. Spring Park residents Ray and Carol Hellquist were looking through the contents of vintage case, left to them by Ray's late sister, and discovered a bundle of quilted squares stitched in 1937.

Twenty-one of the squares bore embroidered signatures of ladies from the Lindbergh and Spring Park areas - and one all the way from Greenlawn - while eight more were unsigned. Ray and Carol think they had been made as a gift for Ray's mother, Alberta.

All 29 are identical in pattern, and are made from a variety of cotton prints with a white centre panel, which bears the creator's name, and a white background. Two are hand-stitched, the rest sewn by machine, and all utilize much smaller seam allowances that are used by most quilters today. Some of the fabrics are very thin, and it is likely that all the squares were made with fabric recycled from well-worn clothing. Carol said she was surprised to find the white fabrics had not turned yellow with age.

Excited by the find, Carol decided she would finish the quilt started so long ago. She found it necessary to stabilize two or three extremely fragile squares by fusing them to a backing before proceeding with the project. Some of the squares were smaller than others, and she added a border to make them all the same size before adding sashing and stitching the squares together.

She displayed the completed quilt top to fellow quilters at last Thursday's "Quilt 'til you Wilt" session at Elk Point Further Education. An admiring audience read out the names stitched so long ago on the squares - some familiar, some not heard for decades, many dating back to pioneer days. Those familiar with the names explained the relationships of the long-ago craftswomen to today's area residents and to each other.

Carol is no stranger to vintage quilts, and has three in her collection that were made by ladies from the Spring Park area in the 1940s. However, this is the first one she has added her own stitching to complete, and she says that as she sewed the quilts together, she felt as if those ladies from long ago were there with her, beaming their approval as she completed the labour of love and friendship they had started seven decades ago.



Quilt made in
1937
By
Lindbergh Spring Park ladies
For Alberta Hellquist
As a gift for her mother
Carol Hellquist

Irene Melin, above left, who remembers many of the quilters whose work is a part of the Hellquist heirloom, points out the name of Gladys Sweheim of Lindbergh. Carol Hellquist stitched the 70-year-old squares together and added a thirtieth square (inset left) telling the history of this treasured fabric artifact.



Anna U. Keck of Lindbergh created one of two hand-stitched squares on the 1930s quilt, the other, shown on our Front Page, was made by Lillian Dennis.



This quilt was made by ladies from the Spring Park area in the 1940s and contains a variety of square designs, some of them labeled by their creators.

Vicki Brooker photos

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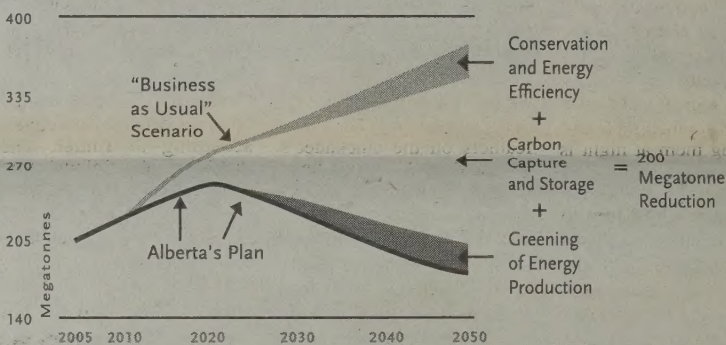
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24 MEGATONNES

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37 MEGATONNES

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Sittin' and Knittin'

Sherry Smith shows off her handknit shawl to fellow knitters (left to right) Lorraine Danyluk, Sharon Kuhn, Daphne Schnurer and Marlyne Kryvenchuk at the Elk Point Municipal Library on Wednesday. The ladies worked on a variety of projects, shared ideas for upcoming projects and talked about the best sources for patterns and yarn. The library has a number of knitting books in their collection, including some new arrivals. The ladies hope to have another knit-in this Wednesday afternoon, weather permitting, and also hope to have the sessions on a once-a-month basis in the future. Another upcoming event at the library is the February Seniors Tea, which will be held on its regular date of Tuesday, Feb. 12, rather than the earlier date which had been announced.

Wildlife adapt to winter weather

By KEVIN MA
Contributor

If you're anything like me, you probably lay awake some nights wrapped up in a warm bed wondering how it is all those squirrels and chickadees outside aren't freezing to death.

Winter is an excellent time to watch wildlife. Critters are easier to spot because the leaves are gone and easier to hear in the cold, dense air. Listen carefully and you can even hear the paper-thin scales of a pinecone settling onto the snow and look up to find a red squirrel munching away.

Spotting them at night is much more challenging, because I don't have infrared vision. That's why I turn to Jim Butler, retired professor of wildlife biology at the University of Alberta and night-walker. He doesn't have night-vision, but he does know a thing or two about tracking animals at night. He says he often goes out for late night walks in the winter to spot rabbits, coyotes, owls, porcupines and flying squirrels. "I've got at least eight different species of mammal tracks in my yard."

Butler's first spotting technique is simple: "You simply walk quietly." Most nocturnal animals aren't expecting you, so if you're quiet you can get very close to them. Second is to hold your flashlight at eye-level and watch for reflections, particularly from eyes. Third is to pick the right spot. "The tracks really help you," he says. Animals usually follow the same routes, so if you camp out by a busy spot, you're bound to see something. He says he usually carries a cushion and sits on a bench.

Built for the cold

Watching wildlife helps you realize that the animals are built to survive winter, according to Butler. Moose, for example, have long legs to walk in deep snow. Birds might grow extra feathers for warmth — up to 50 per cent more, in the case of redpolls (finch-sized birds with a red forehead). "They are doing the same thing humans are doing: putting on a heavy winter coat."

Chickadees are black and white in certain spots to keep warm, he explains. "Being white in the right place is better insulation." The black feathers on the chickadee's face and back absorb heat, he says, while the white ones insulate the organs. White feathers lack pigment and are hollow, he says, making them excellent insulators and great camouflage. "This is like putting on a nice down vest," he says of the chest feathers.

Other animals, such as red squirrels, adapt their behaviour. For squirrels, I turn to biologist Stan Boutin at the University of Alberta,

because he's studied them for years as an experimental model.

Unlike other mammals, Boutin says, red squirrels don't pile on the fat or fur during the winter. Instead, they build heavily insulated nests of grass, moss and twigs high up in trees, curl up and sleep. "That nest can be as much as 20-centimetres in thickness all around." You won't find many of these nests in the city, he adds, because most urban squirrels camp out in wood-piles or attics.

Chickadees have several winter survival techniques, according to Butler. The magic of piloerection (goose-bumps) lets them fluff their feathers, cutting heat losses from conductivity by up to 50 per cent. They will also crouch so their chest feathers cover their

poorly insulated feet.

At night, some will band together deep in a coniferous tree for warmth. Others enter a state of regulated hypothermia, chilling their bodies to just 10 degrees Celsius. Shunting blood from their feet saves even more heat, Butler adds that a chickadee might have a body temperature of 40 degrees and feet temperature of four degrees. If it's really cold, the birds will burrow under the snow to take advantage of the ground's warmth and snow's insulation.

These sleeping habits make squirrels and chickadees tough to spot at night. Sleepy chickadees might be easier to spot in the day, according to Butler. Look for a bird sitting very still with its feet tucked in.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU BABCOCK, Evelyn

Our sincere gratitude to the devoted, compassionate staff and physicians at the Elk Point Health Care Centre, Royal Alexandra ICU and St. Albert Surgeon ICU.

Special thank you to relatives and friends for your strength, comforting expressions of kindness and sympathy, your cards, calls and flowers.

To all at Yewchin's Funeral Chapel, thank you for your warmth, guidance, understanding and comfort.

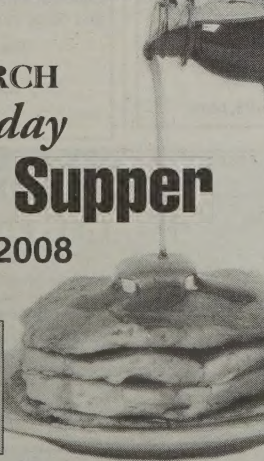
Isabel, Joanne, John and Families

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Ask St. Clare for 3 favors - one business and two impossible. Say nine Hail Mary's for 9 days. Pray whether you believe or not and publish on the ninth day. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified today and every day. Promise to make the Novena known. Grateful thanks for prayers answered. L.L.

OBITUARY

McALEESE, Kathleen Doris

On January 26, 2008, Mrs. Kathleen Doris McAleese of Elk Point passed away at the age of 85 years.

She is survived by 1 son & 1 daughter, Lloyanne Hurd of Lethbridge & children, Tabitha & Skye & Dick (Heather) McAleese of Oliver, B.C. & children, Jarrod & Pamela; 5 great-grandchildren, Alex, Glenn, Owen, Madison & Quinn; 1 sister, Margaret Carson of Elk Point & 1 brother-in-law, John Bennett of Elk Point. She was predeceased by her parents, Martin & Mabel Loftus; her husband, Gerry & 1 sister, Mary Bennett.

Memorial Service Thursday, January 31 at 1:00 p.m. at the Elk Point United Church, Elk Point with Reverend Jope Langejans officiating. Cremation has taken place. If desired, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society c/o Box 425, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0. Yewchin's Funeral Chapel Ltd. St. Paul. 1-780-645-5177.

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Hockey

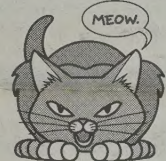
(Continued from Page 5)

Sunday at high noon the Atom Avalanche met Lloydminster Blazers and snuffed their fire out. Well, it wasn't quite that easy, the game seasawed back and forth, and the flame was hard to extinguish, tied three-all late into the third period, on goals by Matthew Mahoney, Brodin Ference and Brandon Garrett, the hero Han-Lo Pittlejon scoring the winner with 5:25 left in the third, assisted by defenseman Dylan Odgaard. The Blazers coach called a time out with a minute left, they then pulled their goalie for the extra attacker, the pressure was on Colin "Naz Jr." Nazarchuk who was between the pipes in this one, scrambling to keep the puck out, he made two desperate sprawling saves in the dying seconds to give the Avalanche the big win.

Over in the curling rink, at the Oilmen's 25th annual bonspiel

where the pucks are much bigger and heavier, the B & R Swifters battled right down to the eighth end in the A semifinal against our old friend "Electric Lenny" Gadowski, who after knocking us out eventually went on to become the grand champion once again. We couldn't get any bounces either, or sometimes we had too many bounces, or is that too many pops, anyway, congratulation once again Lenny!

And now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week: "For the most part, with the possible exception of me, I don't think anybody goes out to try to hurt somebody." Last week's answer to: "I think the game has gotten better with the two man ref system, keeps players from taking cheap shots. I never thought I would like it considering the way I like to hack." - Brian Skrudland. Do you have any scoops? Now you can email them to sportshound007@hotmail.com



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8005. Services

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1005. Help Wanted

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3210. Misc. For Sale

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5003. Real Estate Misc.

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5110. Houses For Rent

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5130. Apartments For Rent

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5130. Apartments For Rent



Oilmen's entertainers

Brett Kissel and his band, "The Goatees," provided very enjoyable entertainment at the Elk Point Oilmen's Bonspiel banquet and dance, keeping dancers up on the floor with their great classic and contemporary country music.

Barley scheme a bust, say growers

By Kevin Ma
Review Contributor

Barley growers and maltsters panned the Canadian Wheat Board's new barley pricing scheme this week, calling it a poor imitation of an open market.

The wheat board released its long-awaited new price plan for malt barley last week. Called CashPlus, it was supposed to appeal to farmers who wanted more leeway in how they sold their crops without breaking the board's monopoly over barley sales.

All malt barley grown in western Canada must be sold through the Canadian Wheat Board. The board says it can get farmers better prices by acting as a single source or desk for barley. Board critics believe they can make more money selling on their own.

Phil de Kemp, president of the Malting Industry Association of Canada, which represents the buyers of about 60 per cent of the board's barley, opposes the price plan. "It just doesn't work," he says. "It does not allow the farmer to receive the full benefit of the price transaction."

Last year, the federal government, supported by many Alberta farmers, tried to remove barley from the board's control so farmers could sell on the open market. The federal court ruled that the government did so illegally and quashed the move. The government will appeal the ruling on Feb. 26.

CashPlus gives farmers more flexibility when it comes to price setting without sacrificing the security of the single desk, says Allen Oberg, the wheat board's District 5 northeast Alberta director. Right now, the board sells barley to maltsters and pays farmers at the end of the year based on the average price they received. This meant that farmers would often wait months before finding out what they made from their sale, which critics said made planning tough.

Under the new system, the board would give farmers a guaranteed minimum price beforehand based on market rates. "It will be much more upfront and more responsive

to what the market is doing," Oberg says. Farmers will deal directly with maltsters and can demand a higher price if they wish. Farmers still get their cash at the end of the year, but will get extra if the market price ever rose above the board's price. Farmers can also sell under the old pool system if they want, Oberg adds.

However, Local Alberta Barley Commission chair Albert Wagner panned the proposal. "It's just an imitation of an open market."

Maltsters and farmers want a system with clear price signals so they can decide what to plant and where to buy, Wagner says. Canola is sold on an open market, he says as an example, so farmers can look at the price and decide what to plant. With barley, the board interferes with this signal by setting a base price, making it tougher to figure out which crop is the best investment. "The wheat board does nothing in there except control the price," he says. "We still don't see where they're adding value."

An open market would let farmers take advantage of price spikes to make more money, Wagner says. "Does that mean you're always going to get the best price if you're on your own? Absolutely not, but you make the decision for your own farm."

Oberg argues that maltsters want an open market because it will give them lower prices. "One seller can command a better price than 20,000 individual farmers," he argues.

He admits that opposition to the board's plan is an obstacle to its operation, but says that the board will offer it on a limited basis even without support.

If the board will let farmers negotiate their own price for part of the deal, Wagner says, they should let them negotiate the whole deal. He called on the federal government to remove barley from the board's control as soon as possible. "I will not grow malt barley as long as I have to deal with the Canadian Wheat Board," he says.

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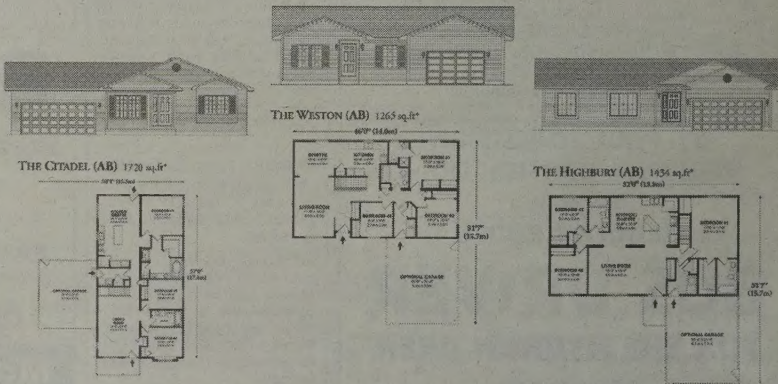
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